

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 29-54 are now in this application. Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 20-28 have been cancelled, and new Claims 31-54 have been added, by this Amendment, as further discussed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-8 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph for indefiniteness because of the use of the language "such that the mesh structure extends throughout the entire fill material. . . ." In the interest of furthering the prosecution of this application to issuance, Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 20-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute these claims in a continuation or continuation-in-part application. With respect to Claims 29-30, these claims have been amended to clarify that the mesh structure surrounds the entire fill material. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figures 2 and 2A of the application as filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 29 and 30, as well as new Claims 31-54 ultimately dependent thereon, are now in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and are in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 10 and 27 have been rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,470,174 (Hu et al.), Claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-17, 20-22 and 24-28 have been rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,874,134 (Feldman et al.), and Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10-12, 15-17, 20-22 and 25-28 have been rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,997,792 (Gordon). In view of the cancellation of Claims 1-7, 10-17 and 20-28, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3, 13 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious in view of Feldman et al. in combination with U.S. Patent No. 3,879,908 (Weismann). However, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 3, 13 and 23.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 31-54 have been added to further describe this invention. New Claims 31-39 are ultimately dependent upon Claim 29, and incorporate the limitations of now cancelled Claims 2-10, respectively. New Claims 40-54 are ultimately dependent upon Claim 30, and incorporate the limitations of new cancelled Claims 12-26, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no issue of new matter is presented by any of new Claims 31-54, and that these claims are condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

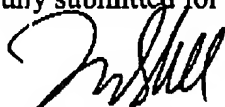
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Goodwin Procter LLP Deposit Account No. 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicant,



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